

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 21, 25, and 28-32 without prejudice or disclaimer, as follows:

1. (Original) A stage assembly comprising:

a guide assembly including:

a guide bar movable in a first direction, the guide bar having a center of gravity and a guiding portion;

a stage movable along the guiding portion of the guide bar in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction and exerting a reaction force on the guide bar in the second direction, the stage having a center of gravity substantially positioned in a plane parallel to the first and second directions, the plane parallel to the first and second directions having the center of gravity of the guide bar substantially positioned therein; and

an actuator component positioned on the guide bar substantially in the plane parallel to the first and second directions and aligned with the center of gravity of the stage in the second direction to apply a compensating force on the guide bar to cancel the reaction force exerted by the stage.

2. (Original) The stage assembly of claim 1, wherein the center of gravity of the stage and the center of gravity of the guide bar are aligned with each other in the second direction and the actuator component applies a force on the guide bar to control a position of the guide bar in the second direction.

3. (Original) The stage assembly of claim 2, wherein the actuator component is a pair of E cores spaced apart from each other in the second direction.

4. (Original) The stage assembly of claim 2, comprising a pair of the guide assemblies spaced apart from each other in the first direction.

5. (Original) The stage assembly of claim 1, wherein the center of gravity of the stage and the center of the gravity of the guide bar are spaced apart from each other in the first direction and the guide assembly further includes another actuator component positioned substantially in the plane parallel to the first and second directions and aligned with the center of gravity of the guide bar in the second direction to apply a force on the guide bar to control a position of the guide bar in the second direction.

6. (Original) The stage assembly of claim 5, wherein the actuator component is positioned on one side of the guide bar and the another actuator component is positioned on the other side of the guide bar.

7. (Original) The stage assembly of claim 6, wherein each of the actuator component and the another actuator component is a pair of E cores spaced apart from each other in the second direction.

8. (Original) The stage assembly of claim 6, comprising a pair of the guide assemblies spaced apart from each other in the first direction.

9. (Original) The stage assembly of claim 5, wherein the actuator component and the other actuator component are positioned on one side of the guide bar.

10. (Original) The stage assembly of claim 9, wherein each of the actuator component and the another actuator component is a pair of E cores spaced apart from each other in the second direction.

11. (Original) The stage assembly of claim 9, comprising a pair of the guide assemblies spaced apart from each other in the first direction.

12. (Previously Presented) An exposure apparatus comprising:  
an illumination system configured to irradiate radiant energy; and  
a stage assembly configured to carry an object on a path of the radiant energy,  
the stage assembly comprising:

a guide assembly including:

a guide bar movable in a first direction, the guide bar having a center of gravity and a guiding portion;

a stage movable along the guiding portion of the guide bar in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction and exerting a reaction force on the guide bar in the second direction, the

stage having a center of gravity substantially positioned in a plane parallel to the first and second directions, the plane parallel to the first and second directions having the center of gravity of the guide bar substantially positioned therein; and

an actuator component positioned on the guide bar substantially in the plane parallel to the first and second directions and aligned with the center of gravity of the stage in the second direction to apply a compensating force on the guide bar to cancel the reaction force exerted by the stage.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

14. (Original) A stage assembly comprising:

a guide assembly including:

a guide bar movable in a first direction, the guide bar having a center of gravity and a guiding portion;

a stage movable along the guiding portion of the guide bar in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction and exerting a reaction force on the guide bar, the stage having a center of gravity spaced apart from the center of gravity of the guide bar in the first direction;

a first actuator component positioned on the guide bar and aligned with the center of gravity of the stage in the second direction to apply a compensating force on the guide bar to cancel the reaction force exerted by the stage; and

a second actuator component positioned on the guide bar and aligned with the center of gravity of the guide bar in the second direction to apply a force on the guide bar to control a position of the guide bar in the second direction.

15. (Original) The stage assembly of claim 14, wherein the first actuator component is positioned on one side of the guide bar and the second actuator component is positioned on the other side of the guide bar.

16. (Original) The stage assembly of claim 15, wherein each of the first and second actuator components is a pair of E cores spaced apart from each other in the second direction.

17. (Original) The stage assembly of claim 15, comprising a pair of the guide assemblies spaced apart from each other in the first direction.

18. (Original) The stage assembly of claim 14, wherein the first and second actuator components are positioned on one side of the guide bar.

19. (Original) The stage assembly of claim 18, wherein each of the first and second actuator components is a pair of E cores spaced apart from each other in the second direction.

20. (Original) The stage assembly of claim 18, comprising a pair of the guide assemblies spaced apart from each other in the first direction.

Claims 21 and 22 (Canceled).

23. (Original) A stage assembly comprising:  
a guide assembly including:

a first moving member movable in a first direction, the first moving member having a center of gravity;

a second moving member movable in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction, the second moving member having a center of gravity substantially positioned in a plane parallel to the first and second directions, the plane parallel to the first and second directions having the center of gravity of the first moving member substantially positioned therein; and

an actuator, at least part of the actuator being positioned on the first moving member, the actuator generating a force acting on the first moving member in the second direction, wherein a portion where the force acts on the first moving member is substantially positioned in the plane parallel to the first and second directions and aligned with the center of gravity of the second moving member in the second direction.

24. (Original) The stage assembly of claim 23, wherein:

the actuator, the force acting on the first moving member, and the portion where the force acts on the first moving member are, respectively, a first actuator, a first force, and a first portion;

the center of gravity of the first moving member and the center of gravity of the second moving member are spaced apart from each other in the first direction; and

the guide assembly further comprises a second actuator, at least part of the second actuator being positioned on the first moving member, the second actuator generating a second force acting on the first moving member in the second direction, wherein a second portion where the second force acts on the first moving member is substantially positioned in the plane parallel to the first and second directions and aligned with the center of gravity of the first moving member in the second direction.

Claim 25 (Canceled).

26. (Original) A method for driving a stage assembly comprising a first moving member and a second moving member, the method comprising the steps of:

driving the first moving member in a first direction;

driving the second moving member in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction; and

applying a force on the first moving member at a portion in the second direction,

wherein a center of gravity of the first moving member and a center of gravity of the second moving member are substantially positioned in a plane parallel to the first and second directions, and

wherein the portion is substantially positioned in the plane parallel to the first and second directions and aligned with the center of gravity of the second moving member in the second direction.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein:

the force applied on the first moving member and the portion are, respectively, a first force and a first portion;

the center of gravity of the first moving member and the center of gravity of the second moving member are spaced apart from each other in the first direction; and

the method further comprises the step of applying a second force on the first moving member at a second portion in the second direction, the second portion being substantially positioned in the plane parallel to the first and second directions and aligned with the center of gravity of the first moving member in the second direction.

Claims 28-32 (Canceled).